

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 30, 2001

Professional Development of Adult Educators

Action: The staff recommends that the council approve the Adult Education Professional Development Plan, authorizing the allocation of \$1,358,528 of the Adult Education and Literacy Trust Fund for 2001-02.

Adult educators need to be well trained if Kentucky is to meet its adult education goals. A task force consisting of representatives of the Department for Adult Education and Literacy, county providers, the KCTCS, Kentucky Educational Television, the Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy, the KYVU and the KYVL staff, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, and council staff has proposed a coordinated statewide approach to professional development.

The professional development task force recommends a plan that will train more than 800 current full- and part-time educators to serve an increasing number of adult learners, projected to reach 100,000 by 2004. Implementation of the plan will be coordinated by:

- The Adult Education Academy for Professional Development.
- The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development.
- The Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy.

These entities will work closely with Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions, Kentucky Educational Television, and the Department for Adult Education and Literacy.

The Adult Education Academy for Professional Development, located at Morehead State University, will establish instructional and management standards to ensure quality adult education programs. This will be accomplished in partnership with the Department for Adult Education and Literacy. Through research, instruction, and model demonstration sites, the academy will offer continuous learning in program administration and evaluation, leadership enhancement, curriculum development, and pedagogy. Faculty and programs from other state universities and the KCTCS will be involved as instructors and regional facilitators. Activities conducted by the academy may provide the foundation for future adult education credentialing requirements. The academy will have an advisory board representing the participating organizations of the original professional development task force. The council staff recommends that \$597,692 be awarded to Morehead for 2001-02. These funds will be recurring.

The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, located at the University of Kentucky, will establish four regional institutes that help prepare adult educators to teach reading. Each institute will be affiliated with a comprehensive university. The institutes

will be ongoing, intensive instructional programs involving classroom observation and coaching of adult education instructors. Adult education instructors may earn academic credit by completing additional assignments. One hundred and twenty instructors representing every county in Kentucky will participate in this program annually. Upon program completion, these instructors will be designated as “lead reading instructors.” The council staff recommends an allocation of \$610,836 to fund two years, 2001-03. The allocation will release \$252,491 for 2001-02 and commit \$358,345 for 2002-03. These are non-recurring funds.

The Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy, located with the National Center for Family Literacy in Louisville, will provide professional development for family literacy instructors. Training for family literacy instructors will begin with a five-day orientation followed by periodic short courses throughout the year. Activities will incorporate model demonstration sites. The council staff recommends that \$150,000 in non-recurring funds be allocated for 2001-02.

The plan also proposes creation of a resource database hosted by the Kentucky Virtual Library. This database will allow providers, instructors, assistant instructors, and learners to find online resources to strengthen adult education instruction and program management. Previous KYVU allocations will fund the database.

Total allocation for the plan is \$1,358,528. Budget details are available in the council’s offices. Institutions receiving funds will submit annual reports detailing the number of adult educators participating, number of counties served, and other state institutions involved.